



**City of
Northampton**

Laura Krutzler <lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov>

Fwd: Ordinance 312-51

John Thorpe <jthorpe@northamptonma.gov>
To: Laura Krutzler <lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov>

Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 11:27 AM

Hi Laura,

Forwarding to you the email we received from Councilor Foster for the Ordinance Review Committee

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Karen Foster** <kfoster@northamptonma.gov>

Date: Sat, Dec 19, 2020 at 1:53 PM

Subject: Ordinance 312-51

To: John Thorpe <jthorpe@northamptonma.gov>, Mp <megpaik@gmail.com>

Dear Councilor Thorpe and Megan Paik,

I am writing to you in your roles as chair and vice chair of the ordinance review committee. I am grateful for your work and appreciative of the equity lens through which the committee is reviewing ordinances.

I am writing to suggest the committee consider ordinance 312-51: Towing of Vehicles Impeding Snow Removal Operations (<https://ecode360.com/11956638>)

A constituent, who is a new resident of Northampton, wrote to me to share her concern regarding the penalties for violating the ordinance. She rents an apartment that does not have off-street parking available for tenants and, as a newer resident of Northampton, was unaware of the implications of a snow emergency on parking. Her concern is that the penalties (fine + car towing cost her \$196) may be especially burdensome toward those who rent, particularly those who are lower income (many apartments with off street parking also have higher rental fees).

(And, I will share that my communications with her brought me back to 2005 and my old apartment off South St. While my apartment did have off-street parking, my roommate and I used the street parking as a matter of course because it was much more convenient. I well remember a big snowstorm that included a late night, frantic, and freezing cold pajama-clad race to my car when my roommate spotted a tow truck getting ready to hook up. I would have really struggled to pay a fine + towing fee during that time of my life.)

I recognize that for many renters (or, city residents going through their first winter), the implications of a declared snow emergency are not immediately obvious, despite the city's diligent efforts to communicate.

Thanks for any consideration - happy to talk more,
Karen

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Karen Foster
City Councilor, Ward 2
she/her/hers

413.341.0503
kfoster@northamptonma.gov